1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at United Nations Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 10 May 1995, at 5 p.m.

President: Mr. DHANAPALA (Sri Lanka)

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This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within 10 days of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the Conference in a consolidated corrigendum.

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The meeting was called to order at 5.40 p.m.

The President: I should like to apologize for keeping delegations waiting but in extenuation of the delay I must say that I was engaged in urgent consultations which are vital to the progress of our work, and I am sure that representatives will not begrudge me that time.

Observer status for the Organization of the Islamic Conference

The President: The Secretariat has received a request from the Organization of the Islamic Conference to be granted Observer status at the Conference. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Conference wishes to approve the request.

It was so decided.

Adoption of the rules of procedure (NPT/CONF.1995/28)

The President: As representatives may recall, at the first plenary meeting of the Conference, on 17 April, the Conference decided, upon the proposal of the Preparatory Committee, to apply the rules of procedure provisionally, pending their formal adoption, and I was entrusted with continuing consultations on the one outstanding aspect in rule 28.3 (f), with a view to reaching agreement by consensus. I am pleased to report that agreement has been reached on that one outstanding point. In accordance with agenda item 7, I now submit to you for formal adoption the rules of procedure of the Conference (NPT/CONF.1995/28). These rules of procedure include the agreed text of rule 28.3, that is, the extension. They also reflect the agreement we reached at the beginning of the Conference on increasing the number of vice-presidents from 26 to 34, and accordingly rules 5 and 8 have been revised.

I should also like to draw attention to appendix 1 of document NPT/CONF.1995/28, the schedule for the division of costs. This schedule only reflects participation in the four sessions of the Preparatory Committee. The final schedule for the division of costs is reflected in a separate document, which I shall take up in a moment.

I now call on the Secretary-General of the Conference for an explanation.

Mr. Davinić (Secretary-General of the Conference): I refer to document NPT/CONF.1995/28, appendix 2, "Voting Procedure A" and "Voting Procedure B". It has been brought to my attention that in the fifth paragraph of Voting Procedure A several words were inadvertently omitted from the agreed formulation. After the words "Non-Aligned Movement delegations" the following phrase should be inserted "and other developing States delegations". The same correction should be made to Voting Procedure B. In the fourth paragraph, after the words "Non-Aligned Movement delegations", add the words "and other developing States delegations".

The President: That correction by the Secretary-General of the Conference is noted.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the rules of procedure contained in document NPT/CONF.1995/28, as amended.

It was so decided.

Adoption of arrangements for meeting the costs of the Conference

The President: Under agenda item 14 I would like to draw the attention of representatives to document NPT/CONF.1995/29, which gives the schedule for the division of costs based on actual participation of States Parties in the Conference. The document should be read in conjunction with rule 12 and appendix 1 of the rules of procedure, which we have just adopted. May I take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the Schedule for the division of costs as contained in document NPT/CONF.1995/29? If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

Report of the Credentials Committee (NPT/CONF.1995/CC/1)

The President: To present the report of the Credentials Committee (NPT/CONF.1995/CC/1), submitted under agenda item 10 (b), I have pleasure in calling on the Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

Mr. García (Colombia) *(interpretation from Spanish)*, Chairman of the Credentials Committee: I have the honour to present to the Conference at its plenary meeting this afternoon the final report of the Credentials Committee. Delegations will find an advance copy of the report in document NPT/CONF.1995/CC/1.

The Credentials Committee, which was established under rule 3 of the rules of procedure, adopted today, met four times to examine the credentials of representatives participating in the Conference.

As will be recalled, last Friday, 5 May, I presented, on behalf of the Committee, an interim report on the status of the credentials submitted to the Committee up to that date. Since that report was issued the Committee has met twice more to review the situation. The Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Davinić, has kept the Committee informed about the status of the credentials submitted and I should like to express the appreciation of the Committee to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the members of the Secretariat for the timely and ongoing submission of that information.

The Committee expressed its great satisfaction with respect to the submission of the credentials of representatives of the 175 States Parties participating in the Conference. Allow me to point out that in paragraph 7 of its report the Committee has taken note that as at 11 a.m. today, formal credentials had been received from 136 States Parties in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure; credentials in the form of telefax copies had been received from 35 States Parties; and the designation of representatives of 4 States Parties had been received from the Permanent Missions in New York.

The Credentials Committee decided to accept the credentials of those States Parties which presented them formally, either in the original or in telefax form, from Heads of State or Government or from Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the latter on the understanding that the originals in the form established by rule 2 of the rules of procedure would be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the Conference as soon as possible.

Since 11 o'clock this morning, the Secretariat has received formal credentials from the Azerbaijani Republic and Turkmenistan. Furthermore, I have been informed by the representatives of Burundi, Honduras, Tuvalu and the United Republic of Tanzania that their credentials have been submitted in the required form. They have requested that their names be included on the list that is contained in this document, and this will be done.

The President: May I take it that the Conference wishes to take note of the report of the Credentials Committee contained in document NPT/CONF.1995/CC/1?

It was so decided.

Organization of work

The President: As representatives will recall, at its 15th plenary meeting, on Monday, 8 May, the Conference decided to defer the decision on the extension of the Treaty for 48 hours, until today, and requested that I make every effort to facilitate the achievement of general agreement.

In carrying out this mandate, I have conducted intensive consultations, the results of which are before representatives in a draft decision proposed by the President on strengthening the review process for the Treaty (NPT/CONF.1995/L.4), in a draft decision proposed by the President on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament (NPT/CONF.1995/L.5), and in a draft decision proposed by the President on the extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.1995/L.6).

It is my understanding that there seems to be a great measure of support among delegations for adopting these draft decisions without a vote. However, I have been informed by many delegations that they would need more time to consult with their Governments and to receive instructions.

Furthermore, a draft resolution has been submitted by 14 States Parties on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. This draft resolution is contained in document NPT/CONF.1995/L.7. Its sponsors have expressed the wish that it be taken up immediately following action on the decisions that I have just outlined. It is my understanding that delegations also need more time for consultations before action is taken on this proposal.

In the circumstances, I propose, with the agreement of the General Committee, to defer any action on the draft decisions and on the proposal until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, 11 May, when the Conference will hold its next plenary meeting. I would like to propose that at that time the Conference take action, without any further postponement.

May I take it that the Conference agrees with my proposal?

It was so decided.

The President: In connection with the action that the Conference will take tomorrow, it is my understanding that delegations wish to be given an opportunity to set forth their positions on the action that will be taken tomorrow. I propose that, as agreed in the General Committee, which met this afternoon, these interventions not exceed seven minutes.

May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal?

It was so decided.

The President: Allow me to take up another issue – the establishment of a deadline for the submission of proposals, as provided in rule 24 of the rules of procedure. The General Committee discussed this matter and decided to suggest to the Conference that the deadline for submission of proposals be 8 o'clock tonight.

May I take it that the Conference agrees with this suggestion?

It was so decided.

The President: As everyone knows, we shall conclude our work on Friday, 12 May. Delegations have already expressed their wish to make closing remarks at that time. In accordance with discussions held in the General Committee, I recommend to the Conference that those statements not exceed seven minutes.

May I take it that the Conference agrees with this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: I urge delegations to continue to demonstrate the necessary flexibility and cooperation. I hope that the Drafting Committee will be able to report to the Conference tomorrow morning.

I call now on representatives wishing to make statements at this stage.

Mr. Hoey (Ireland): My delegation, Sir, will be very happy to accept the procedural proposal you made, that we should defer action on the extension decision and on accompanying decisions until tomorrow morning. We understand that, as you rightly said, this proposal was made to allow delegations, not all of which have been involved closely in the negotiations you have conducted, to study the draft decisions. We certainly share your hope that this will facilitate the objective which, I think, we all share, which is to enable the Conference to adopt these decisions without a vote.

I very much hope that all the States Parties that are attending the Conference – no less than 175 as we have heard from the Chairman of the Credentials Committee – will, by their presence here tomorrow, contribute very much to this historic occasion.

Ms. Forsyth (New Zealand): I should like to second the comments just made by the delegation of Ireland. My delegation believes that the States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty have already shown, by their record attendance at this Conference, how much importance they attach to the decision we are to take tomorrow. After the effort that has gone into our work over the past few weeks, we are confident that all the participants will want to be present for a decision that is of historic significance.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.